(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):(a) and (b) The Botanical Survey of India has a large data base on the plant diversity of the country and has over 3 million herbarium sheets which encompass herbs in addition to trees and shrubs. The organization has undertaken a programme for electronic digitization for a more scientific and systematic maintenance.

(c) Does not arise.

Threat to wild life due to clearing of forests

222. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several wild life lovers and environmentalists have expressed concern over the increasing threat to wild life due to the clearing of forest for development projects;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government have received a representation in this regard;

(c) whether it is a fact that the record in protecting wild life from destructive development and commercial pressures has gone from, bad to worse; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):(a) Government is aware of the concerns expressed by activists, conservationists and environmentalists attributing the threat to wildlife due to factors such as increase in human population, urbanization, industrial pollution, droughts and floods, degradation of the natural habitats and their conversion for human use.

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.